

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 3, 2007**  
**Cary Hall Auditorium**  
**1605 Massachusetts Avenue**

**Present: Superintendent Paul Ash, School Committee Chair Tom Diaz, School Committee Members Helen Cohen, Margaret Coppe, Tom Griffiths and Ravi Sakhuja and student representative Gabe Schonfeld. The minutes were taken by Leora Tec.**

**I. Call to Order and Welcome (Tom Diaz)**

**II. Public Comment**

**Francesca Frommer** (Harrington and Clarke parent): I am here on my behalf and for four other families regarding our bus route. The bus driver drops the children off on the opposite side of Waltham street because it is more convenient for her. We have not gotten a response from Mary Ellen Dunn or a variety of other people.

**III. Superintendent's Announcements:**

1. The next meeting is in Boston on October 16.
2. Presentation of M.A.S.S. Academic Excellence Awards to High School Students

**IV. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns:**

**Margaret Coppe:** The 20/20 vision committee will look at town demographics. They want a representative from the schools. The Shire warrant article is potential for increasing tax revenue in the town. Would my fellow SC members support a motion to support this article and speak to that effect at Town Meeting next week?

**Motion for School Committee to endorse approval of Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting** (Coppe, Griffiths).

The motion was tabled out of respect for the time of those attending who may wish to leave early.

**Helen Cohen:** I met with the PTA presidents. They had a presentation from Lexmedia about getting more school events on the air. I also attended the Youth Services Council meeting. A task force will give a presentation on stress and services our town now provides on Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup>. LEF had a presentation about the grants they have given to teachers, I want to express my gratitude though I did not hear the presentations.

**Tom Griffiths:** Dr. Ash sent a memo saying the state had agreed to adjust the timing of the light at Lowell and Winchester streets, has it happened?

**Paul Ash:** I do not know.

**Tom Griffiths:** I enjoyed hearing about the summer trips sponsored by LEF.

## V. Discussion Items:

1. School Improvement Plans: Dr. Ash introduced the topic including discussing the connection to the district's goals. That was followed by a discussion between the School Committee and the principals of the issues brought up in the school improvement plans including: MCAS, technology, block scheduling in the elementary school, Class Links at LHS, uniformity of certain aspects of school improvement plans, focus on MCAS in the school improvement plans, MCAS at middle schools and the math intervention program in middle schools.

**Jesse Steigerwald:** Why can't we measure for everyone, not just the low achieving kids? The district used to have differentiated instruction for the higher level kids.

2. FY09 Budget Calendar

Capital budget will be discussed at the second School committee meeting in November. The School Committee set that meeting for November 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. According to Tom Diaz the 2008 dates won't work if there is an operating override in question.

**Motion to accept this budget calendar through 2007 understanding that we will have to work hard in December** (Cohen, Griffiths). **The motion passed 5-0.**

3. FY09 Budget Guidelines

Budget guidelines were discussed including the need for an operating override.

**Motion to accept the superintendents suggested FY 09 budget guidelines** (Griffiths, Cohen). **The motion passed 5-0.**

**Motion to take from the table Ms. Coppe's motion to support Article 2 in the Special Town Meeting** (Cohen, Griffiths). **The motion passed 5-0.**

**Motion for School Committee to endorse approval of Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting** (Coppe, Griffiths).

There was a discussion of the motion.

**The motion passed 5-0.**

## VI. Action Items

Tom Diaz made a general statement that these trips will be approved only on condition that there are chaperones of both genders accompanying the students. Also there was a promise that a 1 to 10 chaperone student ratio would be maintained.

1. Vote to Approve Clarke Grade 8 Field Trip to Canada

Amy Hawrylchak made a commitment to having 5 chaperones for this trip (there are currently 3).

**Motion to approve the Clarke Grade 8 Field Trip to Canada (Cohen, Griffiths).  
The motion passed 5-0.**

2. Vote to Approve Clarke Grade 8 Field Trip to Mexico

**Motion to Approve Clarke Grade 8 Field Trip to Mexico (Griffiths, Cohen). The  
motion passed 5-0.**

3. Vote to Approve Lexington High School Field Trip to Honduras

**Motion to Approve Lexington High School Field Trip to Honduras (Cohen,  
Griffiths). The motion passed 5-0.**

4. Vote to Appoint Alternate Voting Delegate to MASC Annual Business Meeting

**Motion to Appoint Tom Griffiths as Alternate Voting Delegate to MASC Annual  
Business Meeting (Griffiths, Cohen). Passed 5-0.**

5. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of September 25, 2007

**Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of September 25, 2007 as  
amended by Margaret Coppe (Cohen, Griffiths). The motion passed 5-0.**

**VII. Motion to adjourn (Griffiths, Cohen) The motion passed 5-0.**